

CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER

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Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Saturday, May 8, 1920

AN ALARMING TENDENCY.

A Washington dispatch which foretells to some extent the census figures which will probably be completed by October 1st, contains this interesting paragraph:

Tabulations of population thus far completed show an unusually large growth in those centers which are chiefly industrial. The reports of the agricultural census have not yet been received, but an attempt has been made to show accurately the decrease in population in the agricultural communities, but it is conjectured, as expected by census experts, that the decrease will be more instances as high as 25 per cent with an average decrease in agricultural population of 7 per cent.

Despite the virtual stoppage of immigration, and the emigration of thousands of foreigners who, since the war, have returned to their native lands, it is predicted that the census will show an increase of population during the last decade of from sixteen to twenty per cent. Returns from 759 cities and towns already tabulated show a total population of approximately 15,000,000, an average increase for the cities and towns considered of twenty-five per cent.

The significant feature of the paragraph quoted above, is the statement that, in certain sections of the country, the rural or agricultural population will show a decrease of fully twenty-five per cent and that the decrease for the country as a whole will be about seven per cent.

Agricultural production is fundamental. It is essential to sound growth and permanent progress. Present conditions with their attendant high prices and general interest are not the results of a cause. That cause is short production. And short production can be attributed to no other cause than that there is not a sufficient proportion of our population engaged in the business of production.

This problem, and it is a problem of the most stupendous and alarming character, should receive the consideration of all thoughtful citizens. There can be no permanency for any kind of civilization that is not based upon an adequate supply of the necessities of life for those who constitute that civilization.

THE HIGH COST OF STRIKING.

A New York banker who is a profound student of economics is authority for the statement that strikes were more responsible for the increase in the cost of living during 1919 than profits ring.

The banker makes this assertion, "An incomplete list of the direct losses from strikes in 1919 places the cost to labor alone at nearly \$25,000,000,000 and to industry at \$2,000,000,000." He then calls attention to the fact that this represents a loss of about \$200 tons every man, woman and child in the country, or an average of \$100 for each family.

We have no way of verifying these astonishing statements but in absence of evidence to the contrary, we must assume that the banker had his facts before him. If they are true, they bear witness to an important fact which we shall do well to remember constantly. That fact is that, in our present day complex and highly organized civilization, there is no such thing as independence. We are all interdependent. We have a specialized civilization, in which we have accepted for ourselves certain tasks and assigned others to our neighbors. These tasks all bear an intimate relationship to each other and they must all be performed with efficiency and timeliness so that the wheels of industry may revolve in unison and harmony. It is as though we were all engaged as workers in building some great piece of machinery, each of us detailed to

make some small but intricate part. If some of us should stop or shrink in the performance of our small and seemingly unimportant task, the completion of the whole would be delayed until our job had been finished, and the use of the machine itself would be retarded the same in proportion.

BEATING THE MIDDLEMAN.

Producers of this country have been yearning these many years to eliminate the middleman. There was a tremendous effort in that direction about twenty years ago and all kinds of theories about getting results. Plenty of people followed theories awhile and found they were milling around in circles and going nowhere in particular, then gave up the chase and settled back to half helplessly waiting for some new Moses to lead them to the road from oppression of the go-between who skinned the cream of the efforts of others and gave nothing in return.

In the twenty or more years since the effort to oust the middleman saw the light there has been more growth in middleman than in production. The middleman has blossomed into the profiteer of war times and the superprofiteer of this day. The producer has not found the way out and put it in use. But it appears in the last few weeks as if the greatest of producers is putting his feet in the road at last. The cotton grower has been the fountain of commerce more than half a century. He has made cotton that brought him as little as five cents a pound and that spelled ignorance of his children, because they had work when they should be in school, and present penury for the grown folks when by all rules of right, and fair commerce, they should have known comfort and the new generation should have been well educated and fitted to start the business of life fairly well equipped.

In the newly formed cotton anti-the cotton grower has his chance. The middleman has robbed the grower by main strength.

It is up to the cotton producer to stop that robbery by main strength. That is not a new statement but it is expression of what the new units of producers have found the means to obtain. With the organization which is in process of perfection the cotton grower may defy the middleman. He may do his own marketing in mass through his own organization. He may reap the fair returns of his investment of money, labor and brain. The undivided warfare against robbery by middlemen has found its direct course at last.

Now it is up to the farmers of Texas to stand pat behind the means of salvation and see the scheme of delivery be not defeated by lack of united effort.

When they are ready to shoot that rocket at the moon we want to see an oilija board attached. We cannot think of a better use for it, and the message it brought back might be useful in a certain way to smatterers in the occult.

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